

Wanted fists on the table!

IN SEPTEMBER the TUC will be meeting in Brighton. A number of left parties are planning marches and lobbies. The Workers Revolutionary Party and its youth organisation, the Young Socialists, will be lobbying on Thursday, September 9, while the Right to Work Campaign, in which the International Socialists have overwhelming influence, will be staging a march from London to Brighton for September 7.

Both the events point to growing opposition to the Labour Party and the TUC, yet both fall short of a real, revolutionary threat to their policies.

The Labour Party and the TUC have shown themselves in their true colours.

The memory of July 26 is still fresh in our memories, when the TUC gave in to the Government and the bosses over the 40-hour week.

These are some of the questions we should be asking ourselves—how many union branches have discussed resolutions beforehand?

How many of the delegates are directly elected?

The outcome of the conference can be predicted to a great extent.

Once again the nodding of the head to rising unemployment, to cuts and more cuts.

A minority of delegates will be opposed to these policies of class collaboration, some in sincerity and with the backing of the trade unionists they represent, others to preserve their 'left face'.

In this climate inside the labour movement it is fairly clear that one thing must happen if the working class is not to get a worse bruising than it has already received.

The class collaborationist leadership must be broken and ground to dust by an intensification of grass roots activity.

Unity

The crucial point in the destruction of the sell-out bureaucrats is the unity of the struggles in isolated factories, dole queues and estates.

Unity of rank and file activity must be built on a class basis.

This is a fundamental question. It cannot be achieved without raising the question of social power: that is, who controls society at the moment and who must control it in the future.

Neither can this unity be achieved independently of local struggles.

Working class unity will have to grow out of hundreds of local experiences linking together first in the neighbourhood then on national and international levels.

In some ways the left manoeuvres in Brighton express to a degree this rejection of class collaboration. But at the same time they mystify and mislead.

The WRP-YS lobby calls for the

guarantee of jobs — but how can there be such a guarantee when capital is not prepared to and cannot provide it?

They call for the working class to force the Labour Government to resign, to be replaced by one pledged to socialist policies.

They do not call for the organisation of rank and file movements to fight Labour or Tory administrations and their masters the ruling class.

Instead they perpetuate a myth that somehow the Labour Party as a whole can be propelled leftwards.

Such a slogan is extremely dangerous and can if it is followed lead to more defeats for working people.

The Right to Work march and the lobby on September 7 will be a more successful attempt to unify dissatisfaction over the cuts and unemployment.

It avoids the trap of 'forcing labour in a left direction' yet it too is trapped inside reformist and defeatist slogans.

Some of the demands of the campaign come out against class collaboration but demands such as compulsory retirement at 60 are 'acceptable' solutions.

The very slogan around which it cannot answer the question of how work can be provided by a system, when it's forced by its internal contradictions to slash jobs left, right and centre.

Even the Right to Work campaign, despite its much-vaunted successes, campaign mobilises—the Right to Work—fail to question the nature of work itself.

It fails to bring up the question of even basic socialism, let alone the concept of workers' self management has failed to attract significant numbers.

At this stage it is all-important to build a revolutionary alternative to the class collaborationists and the inadequate campaigns in opposition.

Alternative

The Claimants Unions raised the 'Fight to Live' demands.

So far, it has been unable to organise in any effective way against unemployment; it has attracted no-one virtually, and its campaign hasn't 'congealed' at all.

It's time for libertarian socialist revolutionaries, and all those who have profound criticisms of the 'Right to Work' campaign, to mobilise around a Fight to Live campaign.



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

This campaign has to be one that can effectively fight unemployment and the cuts, and ask revolutionary questions at the same time.

A campaign that can promote mass activity and self-managed struggles, and not detract from them or undermine them.

This campaign has still to be built and it will be difficult to build, but it must be done.

It can be built around real living struggles, like rent strikes, occupations and fights against fare, food, gas and electricity increases.

It can mobilise around concrete grass roots opposition to the cuts and

reductions in work forces.

FIGHT TO LIVE!

P.S. We welcome debate in AW on building this campaign. So please send contributions (not more than 1,000 words and preferably typed or clearly written) to 13, Colman St., Hull.

Fishguard Police Seizure

PAMPHLETS seized by the Special Branch from Cardiff solicitor, Chris Short, have now been returned but, Dyfed-Powys police have refused to give Mr. Short any explanation as to why they were confiscated in the first place.

Altogether four publications, a copy of the AWA paper, then called the *Libertarian Struggle*, a copy of *Peking Review*, a report by Amnesty on allegations of prison brutality in Northern Ireland and a Communist Party pamphlet on Ulster, were taken from Mr. Short's car as he was passing through Fishguard en route for the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Short, who was going to Eire with two friends for a holiday said, "The car was completely turned over."

Personal belongings were also ransacked by police officers who also subjected Mr. Short to extensive questioning about his political affiliations.

Mr. Short told us, "One officer searched the inside of the car, a second went through the boot, a third searched the engine compartment, while a fourth just walked around."

"When they took the pamphlets they said they did not allow that sort of thing into Ireland."

"Why were they censoring the stuff anyway? All the pamphlets are legal in Britain and, if they're not in Eire then surely it's a matter for the Irish police and not the British Social Branch," said Mr. Short.

On returning to Fishguard a few days later, Mr. Short presented his receipt and asked for his property back.

He was told, however, that it had been sent to Scotland Yard.

Mr. Short threatened that he would take legal action against the police if his belongings were not given back.

Some weeks later, Mr. Short was told by Scotland Yard that his belongings had been sent back to

Dyfed-Powys Police HQ in Carmarthen from where he could now claim them.

He contacted Dyfed-Powys Police and later that day an officer travelled from Carmarthen to Cardiff to give them back.

What surprised Mr. Short was that he was asked to sign a receipt for the property that also included a statement to the effect that he proposed no further action against the police.

"I refused such a condition," Mr. Short told us, "and it was only after consultation with his Inspector that the officer agreed to accept a straightforward receipt."

Mr. Short also said, "I subsequently wrote to Dyfed-Powys Police asking why my belongings had been seized in the first place."

"I have had a reply offering apologies for the inconvenience but the police have not offered me any explanation at all."

POLLUTION, PROFIT AND PEOPLE

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY—As most people, who are reading this paper, know, there was an explosion recently. But why all the fuss?

Seveso is a small town in Italy, close to the city of Milan. An explosion occurred in the Seveso factory, owned by the giant Hoffmann La Roche Corporation.

The safety valve blew on a reactor and 4½ lbs.(2½) of a deadly poison was released over the surrounding countryside.

This poison is known as TCDD, or dioxin. It is one of the most deadly poisons known to science.

It was dispersed over the entire surrounding area, hanging in the cloud, and falling in showers of rain.

Peas and farm animals began to die suddenly. Children and adults began to blister and become feverish. Yet the management kept quiet about the poison leaked into the air for over two weeks.

They knew the great danger that the local people faced. As well as dioxin, trichlorophenol had been released into the atmosphere.

It attacks the human system, affecting the heart, kidney, spleen, and brain.

It can cause cancer, and mutations in body cells, leading to the birth of deformed babies.

The management kept quiet because they were afraid a shut-down of the plant would affect their profits.

And meanwhile, people continued to eat meat and vegetables contaminated by the poisons—selling this contaminated food in Milan as well.

Rain has spread the poisons over a wide area.

It seeped into rivers in the area, rivers which flow into the biggest in

Italy, the Po.

Dioxin cannot be removed or destroyed. That's why every building in the area is to be destroyed.

At first the government wanted this done straightaway, but now it can be done as the dust rising during demolition would still be highly dangerous.

Burning

One foot of topsoil in the district will be removed and incinerated. All the vegetation must be burnt at 1,000°C and 370 acres must be walled in and made into a no-man's land.

Every animal in the area must be put down and their carcasses burnt. The management only revealed the danger after Seveso workers had gone on strike to demand what was happening.

The disaster happened because of profit.

The management hushed up the affair because they were thinking about their profits. They deliberately skimmed safety conditions to save money.

This disaster could have happened anywhere. In Filabrough, the big explosion occurred because of appalling safety conditions.

The same goes for nuclear power plants throughout the world.

Broadwell, for example (see AW27),

or BIBLIS in W. Germany, where a number of leakages have taken place. There are rumours circulating that a number of workers have been taken to hospital suffering from radiation effects.

The BIBLIS firm, RWL, are hushing up the affair. They plan to increase the plant's storage for spent fuel elements, thus increasing the dangers if an accident happened.

Solution

What is the answer to all this? One of the first things to be seen is that the local people and workers in the plants have no control over what happens to them.

Do you remember Aberfan in 1966, when a huge slag heap came crashing down on a Welsh village?

The people there had been worried for some time about the slag heap, but there was nothing they could do.

The National Coal Board in London decided everything.

In the short term, it is important that local actions be started by workers to fight for better safety conditions, and the appointment of safety officers for every factory.

Local environmental groups should attempt to contact workers in chemical factories and nuclear power stations to find out how much of a risk is involved.

There is no real solution to these dangers except in the long term.

This means the running of industry by workplace councils in consultation with councils in the neighbourhood.

It means working out safety precautions, making sure the chances

of explosions and pollution are reduced to the minimum.

It means the dismantling of many industries based on the manufacture of harmful chemicals, often used, like napalm and dioxin, for attacking civilian populations in times of war.

New methods of technology can be worked out, making use of wind and solar power.

All this will be in consultation with and referring back to the councils, who will constantly review the situation.

The present system runs on profit. It doesn't care what harm is done to the population, the countryside, the rivers and the seas.

Already some scientists believe that the present drought and heat waves are caused by pollution.

There is an accumulation of non-degradable solid waste residues — especially as a result of lead in petrol — pesticide residues and toxic additives in food.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 25% in the last 100 years — it may well double by the end of the century.

There will be vast, but rewarding, work ahead in collectivising

transport, making full use of the waterways and railways again.

Free public transport could be provided, phasing out the need for most of the millions of motor cars belching fumes into the air.

Investigations into forms of propulsion other than the internal combustion engine could be carried out.

AWA members have a lot of ideas. Murray Bookchin, the American libertarian (see his book *Post Scarcity Anarchism*, Wildwood House) but we must agree with him when he says:

"The cities must be decentralised to serve the interests of both natural and social ecology. Urban gigantism is devastating not only to the land, the air, the waterways, and the local climate, but to the human spirit."

All this means the destruction of capitalism, and the creation of a free socialist society.

This may seem like a glib statement, but there can be no other solution to the ever increasing danger of pollution, and devastation, that threatens not just local populations, but the very existence of humanity.

Eve Long



Photo: John Sturrock (Vapor)

Islam: Religion of Repression

OVER THE LAST few months a series of exhibitions around the topic of the 'World of Islam' have taken place in London.

While the various exhibitions outline the cultural achievements of the Islamic world — in architecture, music, etc.—they avoid one major fact: that the religion of Islam is based like all the other organised religions on repression and mystification.

Like Christianity, Islam sees a hierarchical universe overseen by an all powerful God Allah, with a punishment for evil-doers and reward for the good in an after-life.

Islam, along with the other religions, offers 'pie in the sky': it argues against fighting for better conditions and a better society, offering suffering in this world and pointing to a blissful existence after death.

It is particularly pernicious in its defence of the family and the traditional role of women. Here are some of the attitudes found in the traditional Muslim texts.

"Women are your tillage" says one scripture, and over your head a custom designed to reduce women to the level of a piece of property.

Over the last decade women have taken an increasing part in political activity in Algeria against the French authorities, and more recently in the guerrilla forces of the Palestinian people.

No further gains can be expected except through the militant action of Arab women and revolutionary groups.

This shows signs of happening, and will have a devastating effect on the Islamic religion, weakening its foundations drastically.

In the revolutionary struggles taking place around the world, the fight against religion is as important as the fight against capitalism.

To those in the Arab world who fight against feudalism and royalty,

against the capitalist regimes, and against Zionism, must come a realisation that power and privilege is shared up by Islam, that millions of workers are shackled by the mystification which stops them from fighting their oppression.

In this country too, for the thousands of immigrants who are members of the Moslem religion, must come a break with the old.

This can only happen in the course of struggle against racism and

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GAY CENTRE ATTACKED

The East London Gay Centre was attacked last night on Friday August 13 by a bottle-throwing gang of twenty men.

As the 12 guys inside prepared to defend their centre the police arrived, and the attackers ran.

The attack started when a bottle was thrown at the centre at 19 Parnassus Street, where the guys were having a party.

A small group immediately went to its aid, but the aim of hitting the centre was to break up the party.

But attempts to break up the party failed, and the police arrived.

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Thousands Resist Tube Fare Increases

IT WAS just another bright sunny day. The drought was progressing nicely, people were packing themselves off to work, London Transport (LT) had just raised their fares 25%, everything was normal.

But wait — was that thunder approaching? a freak rainstorm? Was the complacent serenity of the drought going to be threatened?

No, but just as serious, the passengers flooding through the underground tunnels were fighting back.

The date, 18 July 1976, was hot to an historic event.

Oxford Circus, bastion of LT's power, was hit by a veritable deluge of angry passengers wielding a new weapon — the *Fare Fight* deferred payment slip.

Hundreds of people, incensed at the new fare rises, had risen up that morning, paid 10p on entering the tube system and on reaching their destination had defiantly handed in their ticket plus a slip offering to pay the difference if LT chose to collect.

Travelling on the tubes would never be quite the same again.

I think methods of direct action are applicable to all sorts of situations — the supermarkets, that even though.

I'm sure that there can think of lots of other examples.

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important jobs hived out.

(Rising, Free, 142 Drummond Street, W1V, Thursday 8pm)

Not for FF though, the centralised committee, the orders from above to the masses — FF made do with a modest co-ordinating group, elected from an early Thursday meeting.

It's understood that if any of the group don't do what they're meant to, or exceed their mandate they'll be replaced.

The jobs are due to be rotated to different people in the not to distant future.

As far as I'm concerned this open structure is as important as the action that is FF's trade mark.

People have been involved at a level previously unknown to me (a victim of countless campaigns), and there has been a steady stream of ideas, comments and criticisms.

There are now moves for people involved in a particular area of London to gather their resources together, people, press, ideas and cars, etc., to organise their own printing, fly-posting — their own activity under the general banner of *Fare Fight*.

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KEN POPE, London Transport's Chief Public Relations Officer, said in the first week of the campaign that only extra slips had been handed in on the first day of the fare rises, dwindling to four by the end of the week.

The following week he was forced to admit that this was a lie, but the figure was still "less than a thousand" he claimed.

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TOM DONNELL, a tube power on the Great Line, told Anarchist Worker.

"I support the *Fare Fight* campaign. When I first heard about it, I thought 'Great, some action at last'."

It's obvious that these continuous fare rises can't go on, especially with the Labour Government's 4% per cent wage limit.

It's not just passengers who're affected though. Because the GLC has told London Transport to break even, when LT finds it's losing money due to the fare increases driving so many people off the tubes, the ticket collectors and operating staffs' conditions of work will worsen. LT will be employing fewer and fewer people to cut their wage bill.

I hope this campaign succeeds, uniting passengers and workers. I also hope people start questioning the conditions on the tubes — how dirty, unhealthy and boring they are to travel and work on.

For example, it wouldn't be difficult to put in some proper ventilation if the priorities were right. Passengers complain about the fumes and the lack of air, but just think what it's like for us guards.

We're down here for up to four hours at a time.

Many *Fare Fight* campaigners would like to see a free public transport system. Is this an unrealistic dream?

Already Nottingham and Milton have adopted free transport, and Buisson has a flat rate of one florin (2p) on its underground.

A large proportion of this is spent on raising and collecting tickets and accounting.

An undisclosed sum has just been sent, not on improving the service, but on installing a more foolproof (and slower) system of ticket barriers.

It would undoubtedly be cheaper to dispense with this whole apparatus, and transfer ticket collectors, sales and inspectors to building, repairing and running trams and buses.

This would be a far better use of existing resources, leading to a more efficient and frequent public transport system.

This is the opposite direction from that of London Transport's policies, which must inevitably result in a decline in use — and thus a cutback in services and staff.

The choice is clear — expensive and infrequent tubes and buses, with congested roads; or a free, clean, efficient public transport system.

WE DON'T WANT AN UNDERGROUND TAXI SERVICE!

Oxford Anarchists are proposing a libertarian conference on fascism and in particular its interrelations with racism and nationalism.

Hopefully, this will involve coping with political analysis relevant to the present situation. The importance of theoretical differences will be revealed not only in interpreting historical differences but through divergent conclusions in practice. The conference is proposed for November.

For more information, please write to: I. Gallagher, 38 Hurst Street, Oxford.

Background

The first trickle of activity was stimulated by the announcement of impending rises.

A group of people got together, called themselves *Fare Fight* (FF), and thought out the strategy.

No more barren talking, enough of sterile theory — this time something was going to be done.

Labour GLC election promise: to hold fares for a year, then reduce to a cheap underground service.

RESULT — 118% rise in 18 months, four times the rise in the retail price index.

The deferred payment slips were printed in books of 25, and an introductory leaflet produced (with a special free away slip).

Groups of people were contacted all over London who were willing to flypost the stations the night before the rises were due to come into force.

Operation Open A Credit Account With London Transport was launched.

Meetings

After the initial publicity splash and following wave of interest in the campaign, FF dug in for a long

MEETING soon devoted to the question of cuts generally.

After all, LT has been subjected to a £17 million cut in subsidy and has been told to "break even" — cuts

are having moments of support put to them.

FF has affiliated to the London Federation of Fight the Cuts Committees and there will be a FF meeting soon devoted to the question of cuts generally.

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THE MURRAYS JUST NOT HANG

TWO DUBLIN anarchists, K.ve and Noel Murray, are facing the threat of hanging.

They were tried by the Special Criminal Court, that tribunal of three monkeys who see no torture, hear no evidence and speak no truth.

Their appeal to the Eire Court is due to be heard in November, and in the meantime the Irish Government is harassing anyone who opens their mouth in the Murray's defence.

Wobblin, Ireland's only liberal magazine, has been threatened with closure, and their goods and assets seized for publishing a letter from the Dublin Murray Defence Group. This letter pointed out that the prosecution's use of unsigned statements extracted under torture constitutes perjury.

Every member of the Defence Group has been pulled in at least once for questioning.

The third person who stood accused with the Murrays of the murder of an off-duty policeman following a bank raid in Dublin last year on 11 September, Ronan Stenson, was declared psychologically unfit to plead.

Torture

This was only after his evidence — extracted under torture which caused him to break down — had convinced the Murrays.

He will be given a fresh trial once the Murrays are out of the way; the Murrays however have been refused a retrial.

Fortnightly meetings are being held by the Defence Committee in a trade union hall in Dublin.

When they arrived for the first time they found themselves locked out, despite having booked and paid for

the hall. Some of the members of the Defence Committee, being in that particular union branch, immediately went to see the Union Secretary and the decision to exclude them was reversed.

Support is being received from the Automobile General Engineering & Mechanical Operatives' Union, which is in the army, repairing tanks.

A petition is circulating and has received considerably more support than could have been expected considering the silence of the Irish press on the whole case.

Liberal organisations such as the Irish NCCL are, however, showing great cowardice and not speaking out to any local leaflets that are produced.

These supplements are available from North London AWA, c/o 136, Kingstand High St., London E8 2NS.

Defence groups can be contacted in Britain at the following addresses: Glasgow: 163 Great George St. Tel: 336 7855 evening

London: c/o Box 2, 142, Great Drummond St., NW1. (url: 388 4734)

This is going on in the background of an election coming up in the autumn and pressure from Westminster to curb the IRA, which has brought the political parties out on a far norder platform.

The Carragh military prison has been enlarged and 800 more police been recruited, mostly in the Dublin area, whilst the armed forces are at maximum strength.

Michael Murray, general secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union has called for the death sentence to be commuted, as has the Belfast Telegraph.

In Britain, the annual conference of the 'National' Union of School Students sent a protest to the Irish Government, as have the electricians'

union, the National Union of Students TSGWU 5/833 and Glasgow Trades Council.

Pressure must be brought on the Irish Government for a retrial with a jury.

Pickets are being held at the Irish every Saturday from 10am to 2pm. There is a judge meeting to be held in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2, on Tuesday September 10 at 7pm.

Defence groups are also organising in France, Italy, Japan, Spain, West Germany and the United States. In July, a special supplement of *Anarchist Worker* was rushed out reporting on the trial and background and can be used, as it is in Dublin, as the general back-up information sheet to any local leaflets that are produced.

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Manderer: c/o Grassroots 108, Oxford Road, Manchester 1. Oxford: c/o EOA Books, 14, Convey Road, and in Eire at: 155, Church Road, Galbridge, Co. Kildare.

We should have no illusions about the outcome of the appeal; the present Irish Government is more corrupt than most in appointing its backs to the Bench.

It wants to draw blood, and the British Government, which proudly boasts the close collaboration of two national security forces, is equally encouraging it.

THEY MUST BE STOPPED!

K.H.

URGENT!!

The Irish Murray Defence Committee are attempting to raise £3,000 before November

to take the case to the International Court at Strasbourg.

Send donations to: 155 Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, EIRE.

For a hundred years our goals have been the goals of the revolutionary labour movement.

When we are sentenced today for our desire to eliminate the state organs of oppression—police, prison army—and to replace this state by workers' councils, this only shows that the Communist parties have turned to the road to socialism and communism.

Perhaps Sylvia would not consider herself as so-right, but it is significant that revolutionaries in her position are having to explore the areas of inevitable contradictions between state power and workers' democracy.

Incidentally, the main article in the *Observer* No. 8 was M. Lowy, 'From the Great Leap of Hope to the Finalist Dictator of Progress'.

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Iron Curtain News

USSR—in our last issue of *Anarchist Worker* there was an article indicating the reappearance of awareness of the anarchist traditions in the USSR.

As a short rider to that, it may be remembered that the Hungarian and Czechoslovak uprisings of the post 1945 era have revealed little dissonance to be present in other bureaucratic socialist states.

Sylvia Pigram, a left socialist writer, in the present edition of *Orpheus* (a bi-monthly predominantly Marxist academic journal of Soviet studies and socialist theory) of the basement is now reviewing a part of the 'utopian' regression of the West German left.

By way of introduction, however, she also tells of the 20 year stretch she got from the Czech authorities in 1959 for 'antisocialist subversion'.

Sylvia was sentenced after seeing this newspaper and it is her recollection of how, upon signing her name, she described the purpose of her activity in Prague, that we should be interested in.

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For a hundred years our goals have been the goals of the revolutionary labour movement.

When we are sentenced today for our desire to eliminate the state organs of oppression—police, prison army—and to replace this state by workers' councils, this only shows that the Communist parties have turned to the road to socialism and communism.

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B.Traven — MAN OF MYSTERY

"My biography would not disappoint you, but it is my own private affair, and I want to keep it to myself. I do this not out of egotism...the biography of a creative person is completely unimportant. If the person cannot be recognised in his works, then he isn't worth a damn, and neither are his works."

B.Traven, letter to his publisher.

B.TRAVEN was the author of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (made into a film with Humphrey Bogart), *The Death Ship*, and many other novels written between 1920 and 1940.

In the sixties his books began to be reprinted, and many radicals and revolutionaries began to read him.

They felt great admiration for his depiction of working people's lives and of the great elemental forces that run through times of working class revolution.

Little is known about him. Even what his real name was he deliberately kept quiet (see above) because of the revolutionary activity he had been involved in. No one knows where he was born.

He appears to have lived in Germany as a young man, going under the name of Ret Murat, and worked as an actor. Then he started bringing out a fiery little anarchist magazine, *The Brickburner* (and *Ziegelbrenner*) railing against the war and the ruling class.

In 1919 revolution broke out in

Torway and even worked as a consultant on the film *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*—never revealing that he was the author.

I've read three of his novels, currently available in paperback here. One *The Death Ship* must be regarded a masterpiece.

It tells the story of Gerard Gale, a New Orleans sailor. He is stranded in Amoy, never appears.

He becomes the stowaway passenger shuttled from country to country, and harassed at all turns by the bureaucracy and the police. In the end, because he cannot get a job on a 'desert' ship, because he has no papers—he is forced to work on the Yorkite, *The Death Ship*, a ship that runs arms to whoever will buy.

The book is a brilliant exposure of the evils of the Nation State and of Frontiers.

Everything is seen through the eyes of Gale, not a political militant—just an ordinary sailor with a sharp mind, a warm and sympathetic character.

The *Death Ship* itself represents all the horrors of the system of exploitation—militarism and profiteering out of war, and the degradation of sailors' lives.

Yet though the appalling conditions that they face, we see them preserve their humanity and their willingness to resist.

Indians

Two other novels deal with the lives of the Mexican Indian peasants—how they are fooled, exploited and beaten by the landlords and the servants the police draw from them.

In the first, *March to Cuabaland*, Celso, a young Indian, learns what it is like to be constantly tricked by the lumbercamp bosses, also their

landlords, the white gentry, who prey on his illiteracy, their status, and the knowledge that the police are at their beck and call.

They steal his money, and force him into long contracts, working on lumbercamps. Yet during his tribulations, Celso learns to fight back, not openly but through stealth and cunning.

His health depends on it. From being a poor devil, he gradually changed into a person who wants to resist.

He succeeds in murdering two of the brutal foremen without being detected.

In the *Rebellion of the Hanged*, Celso appears again. Once more the landlady tyrannise and deceive, and again we see the help of the lumbercamp.

But revolutionary agitation is sweeping through the Mexican land, and it infects the lumber workers who rise and destroy their bosses and owners.

Tit for Tat

These two books are filled with scenes of brutality: the revolutionaries in their turn inflict brutality on the bosses.

But as Traven points out: "It was no fault of the rebels that they were animated by sentiments of death and destruction."

They had never been consulted about anything....Even if workers should have proposed an amicable discussion with the bosses on a basis of equality, the bosses would have replied with machine-gun fire.....

Hence it was not mere savage which drove the Indians to kill and despoil.

They give goods of adultery only because their cruelty and oppressors were a hundred times

more cruel and savage than they themselves, and such profits were provided only to safeguard their interests."

Traven appreciates fully the power of mass action. As one of the revolutionaries says, "If you are in mass, you begin to be worthy."

With the mass you possess a thousand heads and two thousand vigorous arms; and when you're in mass you have the superiority: the strongest lion is disarmed when he faces ten million ants and is compelled to abandon his prey which he wishes to capture."

You are the ants and the bosses are the lions."

Mexico

Traven writes with intimate knowledge of work and lives, especially the Mexican Indians.

His descriptions of Mexico are colourful and capture a lot of the essential spirit of the country.

Anybody who wants to know Mexico should read these books. At the same time it manages to make his plots gripping and interesting.

Traven's books aren't pretty. They are not about refined, cultured people with complicated psychological problems.

They're about the wretchedness of the earth. They're about revolution. They're about class struggle.

As the sailor Standley says in *The Death Ship*, "There is justice in this world. Heaps of it."

But not for sailors, and not for working men making trouble. Justice is for the people who can afford to have it."

The Death Ship, Penguin, 50p.

March to Cuabaland, Penguin, 50p.

The Rebellion of the Hanged, Penguin, 50p.

Letters

More on Russia

Dear Comrades,

I was pleased to read the article "Russia: New reprint from the *International Liberator Communist Worker*".

The anarchist communist activity about on a very limited scale in the USSR even after all these years of

repression, is certain.

Peter Arkhinov was "liquidated", and three lines a labour camp around 1935, a number of fairly well known *Men'sheviks* were arrested as late as 1936 and 1937.

A few survived the "Great Patriotic War" and during the strike and the 1930s in a number of Siberian labour camps, not only members of the Ukrainian Independent Army (UIA), but also Ukrainian anarchists, look back.

At one camp in the Tashkent complex, during an uprising in 1936, a group of Ukrainian anarchists — probably *Men'sheviks* "remnants", raised the black flag of Anarchy over the camp for three days!

Regarding "Reds Anarchy", this defensible station did exist, but it was over six years ago, and must certainly no longer exist.

As for the "disanded group" reported in Leningrad in 1974, the first information

I received was a report from comrades of ORA France that a small ORA type group was functioning, somewhat precariously, in that city.

Thinking of Leningrad, and having been there, I think this is quite possible.

It was the group, which did in fact publish *The Truth About Kromov*, in the Soviet Union.

I have walked through the working class district of Vyborg where, in 1918, *Golos Truda* was published as a daily paper.

And, of course, over the last few years, there have been a number of meetings "sophisticated", post-Stalinist, books and reviews on pamphlets published in the Russian of *Adichur* *Shcher* may be interested to know that S. Semenov, in the book *The Liquidation of the Anarchist Movement in Kromov* 1971 attacks not only Paul Avrich for his views

in his book *Kromov* — 1971, but also the libertarian communist.

Anyone who has knowledge of political manoeuvres within freedom by such persons — or manoeuvring within their committees and branches of the USSR states, I would be very grateful to hear from you.

I am sure, I am sure, hear more about "counter-revolutionary" anarchism in the Soviet Union in time goes by.

Yours faithfully,
Peter P. White, Goldwater

Manouevres

Survey

Dear Anarchist Worker,

I am compiling a survey of authoritarian practices within Trotskyist and other Leninist organisations in this country, and

would like to ask the help of your readers.

Anyone who has knowledge of political manoeuvres within freedom by such persons — or manoeuvring within their committees and branches of the USSR states, I would be very grateful to hear from you.

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Yours faithfully,
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NOT TO BE MISSED...

RED LADDER THEATRE GROUP

I MUST ADMIT that I've often found performances by left wing theatre groups more of an ordeal than a pleasure.

Many of them are so concerned with getting their message across that they think it need to be entertaining as well.

This is self-defeating, as the whole point of theatre is to make a human beings, and to do so, to complement the usual political speeches and news items.

Red Ladder Theatre Group

However, I'm delighted to say that the Red Ladder Theatre Group do not make this mistake; their plays, I think, are really performed to be both highly entertaining, very funny and don't talk down to the audience.

A Women's Play in *Never Done* traces the experiences of a young woman through marriage, having kids and going back to work.

She gets involved, unwittingly at first,

in union activities, learns the value of solidarity, and overcomes the contemptuous or condescending attitude of the man around her, including her husband.

Despite a small cast, the group really makes you believe in and sympathise with the characters, as well as being able to laugh at them.

Mr. Muller: You Sir, deals with the National Health Service, looking at it through the eyes of a factory worker who gets a stomach ulcer, and his wife who has to live with the family's problems, becoming finding a job for herself.

With a very small cast, it gives a vivid picture of the underclass, the overworked system on which the private patients and consultants have to work.

The consultant's song about BUPA is not to be missed.

Other characters seem like real people with strengths and weaknesses, and the music is very good.

The very large audience in Hull really enjoyed the play.

The discussions which were held after the performance were also very helpful.

All in all I can thoroughly recommend either of these plays for any type of audience.



Red Ladder Theatre Group in 'A Women's Work is Never Done'.

ANARCHIST WORKER'S Press Fund

THANKS FOR all your donations to the Press Appeal Fund.

However, a lot more money is still needed to pay for the *Headliner* we bought recently.

Out of this, we have collected £200, and we need — £160 for the machine and £40 for typelace fonts.

Over the summer months, press fund contributions tend to fall off, so please, if you've just come back from your holiday and you've got a little money left over, remember ANARCHIST WORKER.

And if you'd forgotten about us because of the July/August double issue, tie a knot in your handkerchief and send off that lolly — even if it's only 20p.

Everything helps (though we prefer folding money, obviously!).

Until we have paid off the debt on the *Headliner*, we cannot hope to expand the paper into a 12-page monthly, then to go fortnightly.

This will help revolutionary anarchism become more effective in spreading libertarian communist politics.

This depends a great deal on the readers of an anarchist newspaper should be a collective effort, not a part of the spectacle.

So rush these articles about what you think and what you're involved in, in your area, orders for bundles of the paper — and money — for.

AWA, 13 Coltman Street, HULL.

Please make all cheques/PDs payable to AWA General Fund.

ANARCHIST WORKER'S Press Fund

1 Capitalism is a class society

2 The basic irreconcilable class which owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, the bourgeoisie, and the working class, which produces the agricultural and industrial goods.

3 The social antagonism and exploitation of the working class forms the basis upon which modern capitalism stands, without which capitalism could not exist.

4 The state is the instrument of the ruling class. To destroy the power of the bourgeoisie, we must destroy the power of the state apparatus.

5 Russia and China are class societies in each of which a small class of administrators collectively owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, and in which the working class, the sole producer of all wealth, is exploited by that class. These states we define as corporate state capitalism in that the ruling class is totally integrated with the state, as is the trade union apparatus.

6 The class nature of society is expressed in all the dominant philosophical, class, race, sexual, national and religious relationships. The class relationships are the dominant relationships and generate all other relationships such as race and racism.

7 The conflict of interests between the two classes generates the class struggle in the history of society. The class struggle has been the determining factor in the development of society.

8 The day to day struggles of the working class reflect the class struggle. The position of the working class as the collective producer of society's wealth makes it the only force capable of replacing capitalism by a classless society. The existing defensive organisations throw up by the working class, such as trade unions, whose bureaucracy is increasingly incorporated into the machinery of the capitalist system, are not adequate for the emancipation of the working class. However, the working class must be democratically controlled through local, regional, national, factory committees, strike committees, and developing through the idea of work. These organisations are the expression of the working class's consciousness of its own power. Outside of work, the working class has no other form of organisation that are potentially revolutionary, such as tenants' action committees, rent strike committees, and tenant-owner joint action committees.

9 Dual power exists before the power of the bourgeoisie is smashed. If the working class is successful, then the organisation of the needs of society will be the collective working class in power, in which the working class destroys all remnants of bourgeois society, such as racial hatred, the family and hierarchy. This is the period of transition between capitalism and libertarian communism.

10 From our analysis we reach the inevitable conclusion that capitalism cannot be reformed in any fundamental way and that the only meaningful transformation of society is through the development of working class organisations of working class revolutionary consciousness. The AWA does not seek independent power for itself but seeks to work through the working class

The role of the AWA

- The task of the AWA is to aid the preparation of the working class for their seizure of power. The establishment of an anarchist society is something that has to be consciously fought for by the working class. The AWA is a conscious organised expression of the working class's revolutionary communist ideas. Through the shared experience, the shared knowledge of the class struggle, AWA must be able to educate and disseminate the nature of the problems facing the working class and dispel the illusions in the class struggle.
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As agreed at the National Conference, London 31 August - 1 September 1974.

Anarchist Worker RIGHT IN THE



The Eye is now threatened with suppression.

James Goldsmith, the millionaire boss of Slater-Walker, has issued 93 writs against it, following an article in the Eye which named him as the anarchist in the Spanish revolution in connection with the suicide of one Dominic Elwes. (Elwes also alluded to Goldsmith — in his suicide note.)

Goldsmith states that he is not intending to drive Private Eye out of circulation. This denial is plainly untrue.

Goldsmith has recently made an arrangement with several of the paper's distributors, withdrawing his writs against them — on condition that they cease to handle the Eye.

In his fight against the paper, Goldsmith has sought financial help "from a score of hanged millionaires" (*Sunday Times* 15.8.76).



He has also resurrected the rarely-used law of Criminal Libel under which journalists are liable to imprisonment.

Now if a character like Goldsmith were to use his immorally large wealth to suppress — say — the obscure publication of some trotskyist or Maoist sect, it is probable that the left as a whole would mount a defence.

And yet most left-wingers seem to be quite unworried about what is happening to *Private Eye*. Why is this?

Crimes

The Eye has committed serious crimes in the view of many leftists. It refers, improperly, to the fact that various of the undesirable it attacks happen to be Jewish.

Of the paper's two named columnists, one — consistently left in viewpoint — is the ex-CP'er Claude

Cockburn. In the 1920's, under the pseudonym 'Frank Picaire', Cockburn published in the *Daily Worker* various untruths about the anarchists in the Spanish revolution — untruths which are described and refuted in Quesel's *Admonition to Catalonia*.

The other named columnist, however, is A. Waugh, a rightist of the "What the lower classes simply don't realise..." variety.

On his TV programme, Waugh recently defended his occupation of a luxurious Somerset mansion with the argument that "Working class people wouldn't want to live here anyway. They couldn't afford the bills".

But Waugh's naivete (witness the above claim of his), and his use of shrill exaggeration as a substitute for wit, make him an unusually ineffective writer by Eye standards.

As a political influence, his Eye column can be ignored.

For many people probably the main sin of *Private Eye* is to have estranged the left, and to have done so with great skill.

The paper's 'Dave Spart' column is likely to have offended many socialists precisely because they have seen their own, and their comrades' faults reflected, in it with such accuracy.

Spart parodies the confusion, spurious, claims about imminent revolution ("One day soon the working class will... Cont p.84") which will be familiar to readers of the old *Workers Press*: compare also the prophecy implicit in the phrase, common on the left, 'late capitalism'.

Well parodied too is the incoherence of student leftists and others: ("Er, basically, the problematic of the situation is...").

The writer of this article has recently heard people at left meetings talking about "specificities" (redskins), "concrete perspectives" and "the problem of tackling redundancy situations concretely".

The weary exaggerations found in some left rhetoric ("totally fascist!"), and the anxious attempts of people at left work-shops to identify with the industrial working class, also get the

'Spart' treatment (Dave Spart is the General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Sixth Form

Operatives).

Sins

How should we react to a paper which commits such sins? It's pretty unhealthy if we can't enjoy, or even tolerate, well-aimed jokes at our own — available — faults.

More importantly, if we are serious about spreading our ideas among working people, then we had better know what the mistakes are which can sometimes make leftists appear ludicrous.

What is the probable reaction of working people when they come to a left meeting for the first time, and hear the comrades talking about "specificities", "problematics" 'concrete perspectives' etc. etc.

Spart's column could be profitably used to diagnose some of our own faults.

Yes, but what about the right-wing stuff in *Private Eye*? In the first place, there isn't much of it compared with the left-wing, or just anti-establishment, sections of the paper.

The longer, more solidly researched articles have been consistently left in intention and effect — and not only in the days when Paul Foot worked on the Eye.

There's also an important general principle at issue.

If we knew of a factory canteen, or a student union (or even a pub), where left-wing and anti-establishment views predominated, but where some right wing stuff also got uttered (and such places have been known!) and if some right-wing millionaires tried to close down the place entirely, we should probably have no doubt that the place would have to be defended — if necessary, wars and all.

The position of *Private Eye* seems very similar.

It is not the product of a single mind, with occasional right-wing excursions. It is the work of a collection of journalists who have given an unusual "freedom" to express them.

If Goldsmith gets his way, then we lose the only effective scandal sheet in the country — the paper which has exposed — among others — Maudling, Lomax, Slater-Walker, Concord and the National Front.

A few left-wingers with under-developed sense of humour may be glad to see it go. But there's no doubt as to who would feel the greatest relief if *Private Eye* were suppressed — the British ruling class.

A. Powell

(The writer of the above article wishes to make it clear that it contains his own, and not necessarily the AWA's, opinions. He also wishes to make clear his opinion that financial support should be given to the Goldsmiths Against *Private Eye*, 34 Gresham Street, London W1.)



The tyranny of stRUCtUreEsisNeSS

by Jo Freeman

In this pamphlet Jo Freeman attempts to sketch out an approach to organisations that would prevent the growth of elitist leaderships — which both highly centralised and highly informal groupings tend to produce.

In revolution from the tyrannical structures of governments, unions and other organisations some anarchists have shed away from any incoherent consideration of self-organisation.

The Anarchist Women's Association played no part in the writing of this pamphlet but has found it highly applicable to the sufferability of anarchists in Britain in recent decades.

Send 5p + 7p p&p to AWA, 13 Colman Street, Hull, Humberside for a copy. 10 or more 3/1p each. Please make cheques/P.O's

LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST DISCUSSION MEETINGS

to be held at Gay Centre, 19 Reims Road, London E1, at meetings on Thursdays at 7.30pm

September 16
REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISM

September 20
THE UNIONS

October 14
THE LEFT

October 26
UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS

November 17
THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND SEXUAL POLITICS

convened by East London AWA

Anarchist Transport Workers contact ADAM 01-247 4629

Spain — Anarchists and libertarians in prison in Spain need assistance.

Please send donations to: c/o Comité Pro-Process, 87 rue de Paray, 75013, Paris France.

WOMEN & EDUCATION

Practical approaches to non-sect teaching and learning. 10am-5pm, Saturday October 2, registration £1.50 for unwaged, students, includes costs of reports from day.

Open to men and women — Register with Women & Education Group, c/o 4 Clifside Drive, Crumppall, Manchester 8.

CALLING ALL ANTI-RACISTS TO BLACKBURN LANCES.

March & Rally, Sept 11

STARTING AT 2pm FROM BROOKHOUSE LAKE, WHALLEY RANGE AREA, TO RALLY IN KING GEORGES HALL AT 3pm

The fascists have publicly stated we shall not be ALLOWED to march. They have promised "Blood in the streets". We will march — with a mass turnout.

Organised by Action Against Racism (AAR)

Women in Media Seminar on the Sex Discrimination Act

Saturday October 23 Bedford College, Regents Park

Register with Media in Motion, 13 Elgin Crescent, London W11

AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL AWA OPEN SCHOOL AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL

The State and Workers Power

covering the Marxist and anarchist theories of the state and their application in the revolutions of this century.

Saturday October 23, 10am-6pm O.S.A. Rooms, Leeds University Union

for more details ring Leeds 7579561

LABOUR'S POLITICS IN THE N.H.S.

A pamphlet from the National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the N.H.S.

It contains detailed information on when and how the cuts in the N.H.S. are taking place and their likely effect.

For example, 7,000 beds have been lost in South London through hospital closures. In Dorset, cancer patients had to wait up to six weeks for operations, allowing tumors to spread.

Available from NCC-N.H.S., 55, Bridge Lane, London NW11. The NCC-N.H.S. is also appealing for any further information on the cuts, and campaigns against them.

They will also provide copies of their petition against the cuts.

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